State of Ohio)
) ss AFFIDAVIT
County of Stark)

Before me, A Notary Public, in and for said county and state personally appeared Deborah R. Tucker sworn by me deposes and states:

1 I am currently employed by The Hoover Company as Director of Research and have been employed by The Hoover Company since 1982.

2. In the years 1986 to 1987 I was employed by the Hoover Company and assigned to the Product Line Support Division. During this period, there was increased consumer interest in disposable filtration bags for vacuum cleaners with improved filtration characteristics. As a result, research and testing was conducted on designing a disposable filtration bag made with non-woven fibers instead of paper to improve the filtration characteristics. Testing and development of such a filtration bag has been ongoing since that time.

3. Subsequent to this time period, consumer interest in vacuum cleaners not requiring a disposable filtration bag developed. As a result, bagless vacuum cleaners were developed having a filtration cartridge for filtering dirt particles which went on sale in March, 2000. The Hoover Company developed several bagless vacuum cleaners utilizing the filtration cartridge having a layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene. The expanded polytetrafluoroethylene was found to have superior filtration characteristics but is very fragile requiring it to be bonded to a stiffer substrate. At this time research and development began for a disposable filtration bag to hopefully take advantage of the superior filtration characteristics of the expanded polytetrafluoroethylene. The research and development has been ongoing since that time. There have been many difficulties in developing the disposable filtration bag having a layer of the expanded polytetrafluoroethylene since it is so fragile. Mass producing disposable vacuum cleaner bags requires bonding the expanded polytetrafluoroethylene to a substrate and then feeding the resultant sheet to machinery to form the bags by a folding, gluing and cutting operation. The integrity of the layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene often did not survive this process. Much effort was put forth in improving the manufacturing process to prevent injury to the integrity of the layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

4. As I understand it, more recently, test results have shown that The Hoover Company has successfully improved the manufacturing process to manufacture the disposable filtration bag so that the layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene remains intact and the filtration bags have tested successfully for the "HEPA" rating for filtration efficiency.

5. Further affiant sayeth not.

EXHIBIT A

Dated this 20 day of October, 2004.

Deborah R. Tucker

Deborah R. Tucker

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 20th day of October, 2004.

Pamela S. Grapes

Notary Public

PAMELA S. GRAPES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF OHIO
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 8-14-08

State of Ohio)
) ss AFFIDAVIT
County of Stark)

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said county and state personally appeared James Katusin duly sworn by me deposes and states:

1. I am employed by The Hoover Company as a technician in the Packaging Laboratory.

2. On September 20, 2004, I purchased the Sears Kenmore Model No. 34924 cleaner and the disposable filtration bag labeled as part no. 20-50690 was included with the cleaner.

3. Further affiant sayeth not.

Dated this 21ST day of October, 2004.

James Katusin

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 21ST day of October, 2004.

Pamela S. Grapes
Notary Public
PAMELA S. GRAPES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF OHIO
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 8-14-08

EXHIBIT B

State of Ohio)
) ss AFFIDAVIT
County of Stark)

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said county and state personally appeared Benjamin J. Meaige duly sworn by me deposes and states:

1. I am employed by The Hoover Company as a co-op in the Materials Testing Laboratory.

2. I am a fourth year student at the University of Akron majoring in chemical engineering.

3. A sample of the purported ePTFE layer of the disposable filtration bag labeled "Kenmore" part no. 20-50690 was submitted to me for testing to determine the composition of the materials forming the filtration bag.

4. The sample was first heated, then dissolved in chloroform (Fisher Scientific Molecular Biology Grade.) This mixture was spread over an Attenuated Total Reflectance plate, and the chloroform evaporated, leaving a thin film of the sample. The sample was tested using a Nexus 470 FT-IR E.S.P. spectrometer, and Nicolet's OMNIC program. After the spectrum was obtained, a sample of known TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene or PTFE) was prepared and sampled in the same way. The two spectrums were compared and were found to be very similar. The most notable similarity was a distinct absorbance peak found in the 1300-1400 cm^{-1} range. Both the spectrums shared this peak. This is distinct because it is representative of the F-C-F bonds in PTFE. The results were posted on the materials lab request M1151. (See Exhibits I and II).

5. A sample of the substrate layer of the subject disposable filtration bag was prepared in the same way as the ePTFE sample on the ATR plate. This sample was then mathematically compared to the polymer sample library, and the results were given in forms of percentage of similarity based on the Fourier Transform. The sample had a 90% match to two different polyester samples.

EXHIBIT C

6. Further affiant sayeth not.

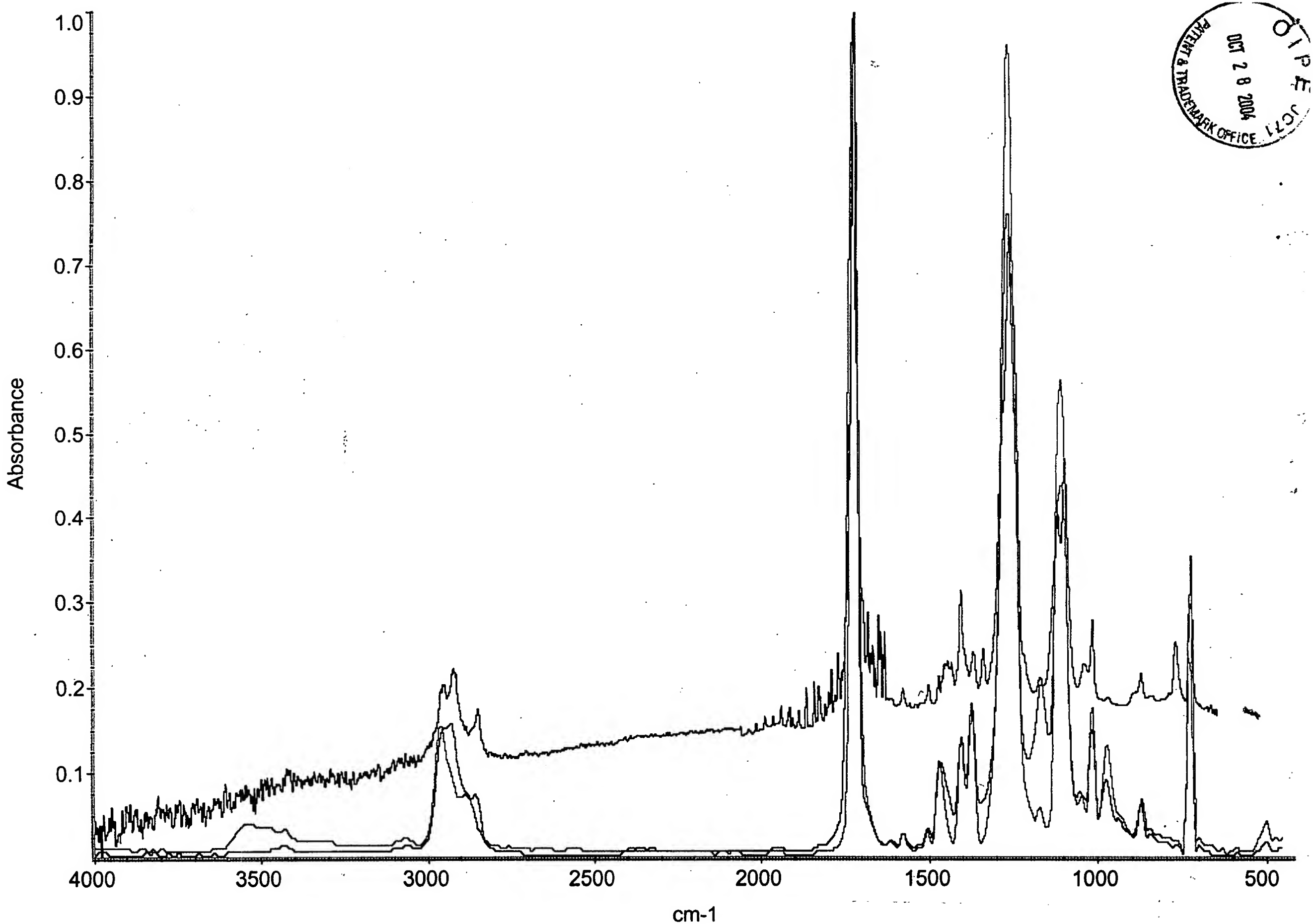
Dated this 10/21/04 day of October, 2004.

Benjamin J. Meaige

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 21ST day of October, 2004.

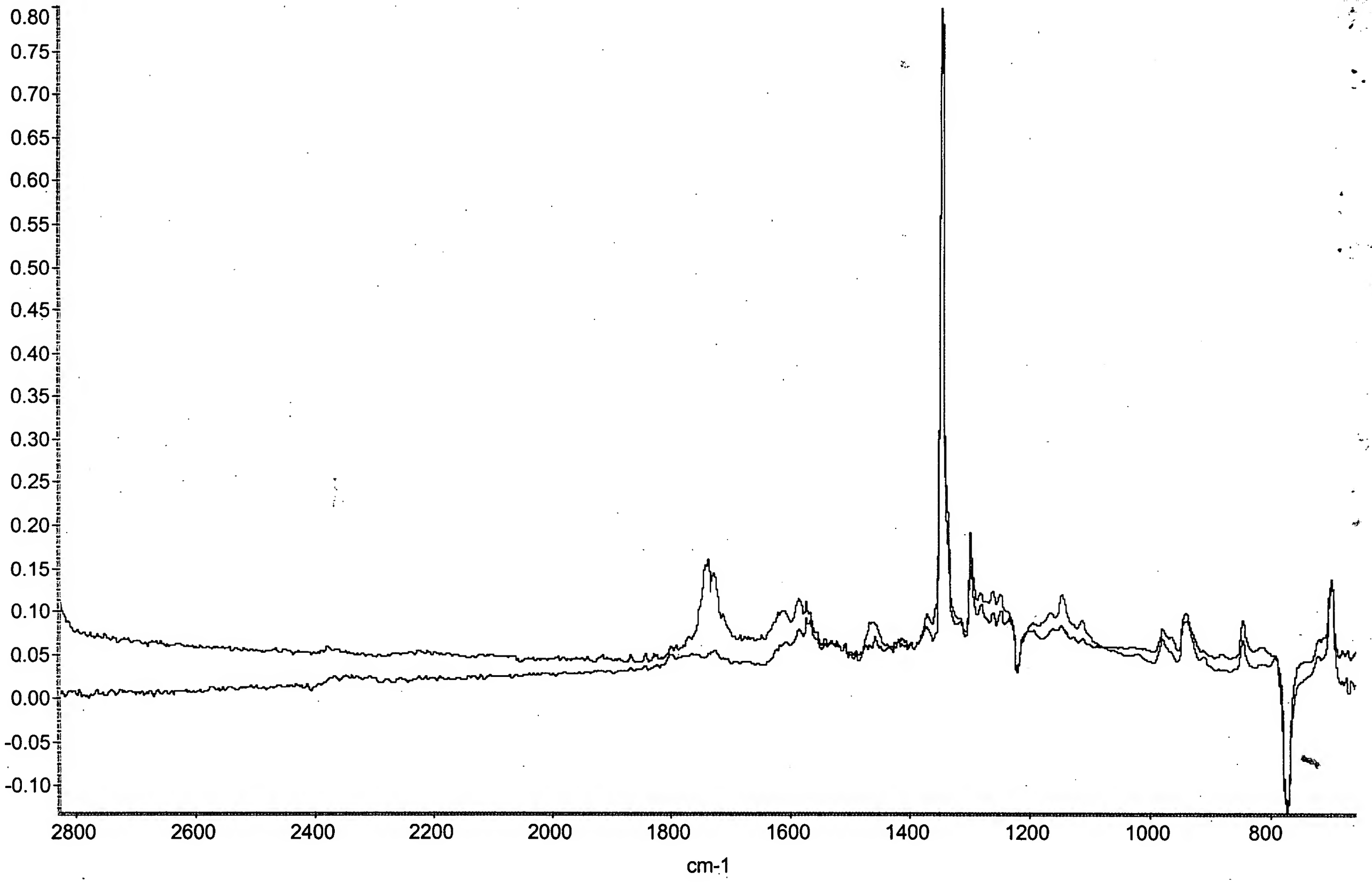
Pamela S. Grapes
Notary Public

PAMELA S. GRAPES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF OHIO
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 8-14-08



M1151 HEPA bag material, ATR, 10-08-04
Polyester, terephthalic acid
Polyester, terephthalic acid

EXHIBIT I



M1151 Hepa filter bag, thin outer layer, ATR, 10-06-04
Teflon, Polytetrafluoroethylene, ATR, 10-07-04

EXHIBIT II